

filing date of the pending application, the earlier date of invention of the subject matter of the pending application allows the inventors to swear behind the Piao publication.

In view of the above remarks and accompanying Declaration, Applicants respectfully assert that Piao is not a proper basis for rejecting the present application. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.



Respectfully submitted,

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Date: August 12, 2003

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Daniel M. Pauly". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Daniel M. Pauly
Reg. No. 40,123

DMP:ck